

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, BR, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 032301; (B) BONN 02721

1. DURING MY FEBRUARY 17 CALL ON STATE MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI AT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, I REPEATED THE POINTS INCLUDED IN REF A, PARA 8, WHICH I HAD USED IN MY MEETING ON FEBRUARY 14 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. I STRESSED THAT WE EXPECTED THE FRG TO DEFER THE EXPORT OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY UNTIL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FRG WERE COMPLETED.

2. I ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ERRONEOUS GERMAN PRESS CLAIMS THAT THE U.S. OBJECTED TO THE TOTAL FRG-BRAZIL PACKAGE AND THAT WE WERE DOING SO IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR OWN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

3. WISCHNEWSKI SAID THAT THERE WAS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE TECHNICAL DIFFERENCES. THESE PEOPLE, HE SAID, DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED STATES' OBJECTIONS WERE DIRECTED ONLY AGAINST THE EXPORT OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY.

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4. THE WEST GERMANS, HE STATED, WERE ALSO PLEASED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH STATE SECRETARY HERMES HELD IN WASHINGTON WERE CONDUCTED IN A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE. HE DID NOT COMMENT ON THE QUESTION OF DEFERRING THE EXPORT OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY BUT SAID THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT TO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW

AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE WEST GERMAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS THE INDUSTRY IS HAVING GIVEN THE POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION SITE IN BROKDORF WERE A CASE IN POINT. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE WELL-MEANING CITIZENS WITH SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF BUILDING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, RADICALS WERE TRYING TO MAKE NUCLEAR ENERGY A REVOLUTIONARY THEME IN THE FRG. THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR PLANNED TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY 17 ABOUT GOVERNMENT POLICY ON NUCLEAR ENERGY.

6. WISCHNEWSKI WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE ALSO COMPLAINTS BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS ABOUT OTHER ENERGY SOURCES BUT NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS THE MOST POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE. THE MINISTER-PRESIDENTS OF THE VARIOUS LAENDER HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH THE CHANCELLOR TO DEVELOP A COMMON POLICY ON NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE LAENDER GOVERNMENTS HAVE A MAJOR DECISION-MAKING ROLE IN THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER. SUCH MATTERS AS PLANT LOCATION AND WASTE DISPOSAL LOCATION ARE ESSENTIALLY UP TO THE LAENDER AND NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPECTS LOWER SAXONY MINISTER-PRESIDENT ALBRECHT TO PROPOSE A SITE FOR NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL WHICH WILL BE
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UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT WILL BE TOO CLOSE TO THE GDR DEMARCATION LINE. SUCH MATTERS WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LAENDER.

7. WISCHNEWSKI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF GERMANY WAS TO CONTINUE TO GROW ECONOMICALLY, IT WOULD NEED ADDITIONAL ENERGY AND THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE OPTION OTHER THAN NUCLEAR POWER.
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